

# List of Jewish American activists

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*This is a list of notable [Jewish American activists](#).*

For other notable Jewish Americans, see [List of Jewish Americans](#).

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## Activists[\[edit\]](#)

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### AIDS activists[\[edit\]](#)

- [Elizabeth Glaser](#), founder of the [Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation](#)
- [Larry Kramer](#), co-founder of [GMHC](#)
- [Mary Fisher](#)

### Anarchists[\[edit\]](#)

- [Alexander Berkman](#), anarchist leader
- [Emma Goldman](#), anarchist leader
- [Murray N. Rothbard](#), anarchist leader

### Animal rights[\[edit\]](#)

- [Rachel Hirschfeld](#)
- [Roberta Kalechofsky](#), founder of Jews for Animal Rights
- [Richard H. Schwartz](#), President of the [Jewish Vegetarians of North America](#).
- [Henry Spira](#)

## **Anti-communism**[\[edit\]](#)

- [Elliott Abrams](#)
- [Louis Fischer](#)
- [Benjamin Gitlow](#)
- [Melvin J. Lasky](#)
- [Jay Lovestone](#), AFL-CIO cold warrior; earlier, chairman of Communist Party USA ousted on orders from [Joseph Stalin](#)

## **Anti-racist**[\[edit\]](#)

- [Balfour Brickner](#)
- [Maurice Davis](#)
- [Kivie Kaplan](#), head of the [NAACP](#)
- [Winona LaDuke](#), Native American activist & environmentalist (Jewish mother)
- [Stanley Levison](#), advisor to [Martin Luther King](#)
- [Abel Meeropol](#), composer of anti-lynching song [Strange Fruit](#)
- [Michael Schwerner](#) & [Andrew Goodman](#), [CORE](#) activists, [KKK](#) victims
- [Joel](#) & [Arthur Spingarn](#), early NAACP leaders

## **Anti-war**[\[edit\]](#)

- [Medea Benjamin](#), co-founder of [Code Pink](#)
- [Noam Chomsky](#), linguist, historian and author
- [Daniel Ellsberg](#), leaked the [Pentagon Papers](#)
- [Allard K. Lowenstein](#), politician and anti-Vietnam war leader
- [Bernard Lown](#), co-founder of [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#), Nobel Peace Prize (1985)
- [Norman Finkelstein](#), critique of Israeli violations of human rights of the Palestinians, house demolitions and targeted assassinations of Palestinian militants

## **Civil liberties**[\[edit\]](#)

- [Felix Frankfurter](#), Supreme Court Justice, helped found the [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [Carl Gershman](#), President of the [National Endowment for Democracy](#)

## **Conservatives and neoconservatives**[\[edit\]](#)

- [Midge Decter](#), writer
- [Matt Drudge](#)
- [Dan Fefferman](#)
- [Arthur J. Finkelstein](#)
- [George Friedman](#)
- [Will Herberg](#)
- [David Horowitz](#), writer, activist, commentator
- [Irving Kristol](#), founder of American Neoconservatism.
- [William Kristol](#), editor, writer
- [Rabbi Daniel Lapin](#), founder of [Toward Tradition](#)
- [Mark Levin](#), radio commentator and writer
- [John Podhoretz](#), writer and commentator
- [Norman Podhoretz](#), writer
- [Michael Savage](#)

## Counterculture<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Allen Ginsberg](#), poet
- [Abbie Hoffman](#), co-founder of the [Youth International Party](#) (Yippies)
- [Ed Rosenthal](#), cannabis activist
- [Jerry Rubin](#), co-founder of the Yippie movement
- [A.J. Weberman](#), Yippie activist, author

## Electronic rights activists<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Mitch Kapor](#), co-founder of [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)
- [Bruce Perens](#), open source advocate, co-founder of [Software in the Public Interest](#)
- [Richard Stallman](#), founder of [Free Software Foundation](#)
- [Jonathan Tasini](#), [National Writers Union](#) leader, fighter for electronic rights for authors

## Environmental activists<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Judi Bari](#)
- [Barry Commoner](#)
- [Laurie David](#)
- [Paul R. Ehrlich](#)
- [Eban Goodstein](#)

## Feminism and gay rights<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Bella Abzug](#), feminist politician, deceased
- [Gloria Allred](#) (1941–) lawyer and radio talk show host<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Bettina Aptheker](#) (1944–) lesbian activist, author, and educator<sup>[2]</sup>
- [Andrea Dworkin](#), feminist writer, deceased
- [Susan Faludi](#), feminist writer
- [Leslie Feinberg](#), transgender activist & author
- [Clara Fraser](#), founder of [Radical Women](#) and the [Freedom Socialist Party](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [Betty Friedan](#), co-founder & first president of [NOW](#), deceased
- [Erica Jong](#), author & columnist
- [Franklin E. Kameny](#), gay rights leader<sup>[4]</sup>
- [Harvey Milk](#), murdered gay rights activist and openly gay politician
- [Robin Morgan](#), editor of [Ms. Magazine](#)
- [Ernestine Rose](#), feminist
- [Gloria Steinem](#), founder of Ms. Magazine (Jewish father)
- [Rebecca Walker](#) (1969–) feminist writer<sup>[5]</sup>
- [Naomi Wolf](#), feminist writer
- [Evan Wolfson](#), gay marriage activist

## Gun rights advocacy<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Sandra Froman](#) — President of the National Rifle Association (NRA), second female president and first Jewish president<sup>[6]</sup>

## Health advocacy<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Robert "Gypsy Boots" Bootzin](#), Health food and fitness advocate
- [Rob Reiner](#), actor, director, producer, writer and anti-tobacco activist; son of Carl Reiner<sup>[7]</sup>

## Immigration reform<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Kinky Friedman](#), country singer, 2006 candidate for Governor of Texas

## Land reform<sup>[edit]</sup>

- [Wolf Ladejinsky](#)

## Leaders of Jewish communal organizations[\[edit\]](#)

- [William Daroff](#)
- [Abraham Foxman](#), national director of the [Anti-Defamation League](#)
- [Menachem Mendel Schneerson](#), the Lubavitcher Rebbe

## Liberal and left-wing activists[\[edit\]](#)

- [Michael Albert](#), co-founder of [Z Magazine](#)
- [Saul Alinsky](#), community organizer
- [Ben Cohen](#), founder of [TrueMajority](#)
- [Jeff Cohen](#), founder of [FAIR](#)
- [Melech Epstein](#)
- [William Kunstler](#), civil rights lawyer
- [Al Lewis](#), actor, Green Party candidate, anti-prison and anti-drug war activist
- [Eli Pariser](#), campaigns director of [MoveOn.org](#)
- [George Soros](#), founder of [Open Society Institute](#)
- [Barbra Streisand](#), entertainer, liberal activist and fundraiser
- [Howard Zinn](#), author

## Libertarian activists[\[edit\]](#)

- [Cliff Asness](#)
- [Murray Bookchin](#)
- [Frank Chodorov](#)
- [David D. Friedman](#)
- [Victor Niederhoffer](#)
- [Murray N. Rothbard](#), writer

## Jewish Defense[\[edit\]](#)

- [Rabbi Meir Kahane](#), founder of the [Jewish Defense League](#), deceased
- [Mordechai Levy](#), founder and chairman of the [Jewish Defense Organization](#),
- [Avi Weiss](#), Orthodox rabbi, leader of Free Soviet Jewry movement
- [David Draiman](#)

## Nazi hunters and Holocaust educators[\[edit\]](#)

- [Marvin Hier](#), Orthodox rabbi, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center
- [Eli Rosenbaum](#), director of the Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations since 1995; Nazi hunter since early 1980s

## Palestinian rights[\[edit\]](#)

- [Anna Baltzer](#)
- [Elmer Berger](#), founder of American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism
- [Norman Finkelstein](#), former professor, (denied most recent tenure at [DePaul University](#))
- [Adam Shapiro](#)

## Pro-life[\[edit\]](#)

- [Nat Hentoff](#), author and columnist

## Radical left[\[edit\]](#)

- [Leslie Cagan](#), founder of [United for Peace and Justice](#)
- [Bernardine Dohrn](#), leader of [Days of Rage](#)

- [David Gilbert](#)
- [Terry Robbins](#),
- [Mark Rudd](#), [Students for a Democratic Society](#) leader during [1968 Columbia University strike](#)
- [Laura Whitehorn](#)

## Rights of Ethiopian Jews[\[edit\]](#)

- [Graenum Berger](#), founder of American Association for Ethiopian Jews

## Socialists and communists (historical)[\[edit\]](#)

- [Abraham Cahan](#)
- [Daniel De Leon](#), revolutionary socialist leader
- [Charles Ruthenberg](#), early leader of the [Communist Party USA](#)
- [Max Shachtman](#), democratic socialist leader and theorist

## Trade union leaders[\[edit\]](#)

- [David Dubinsky](#), labor leader
- [Samuel Gompers](#), labor leader
- [Sidney Hillman](#), labor leader
- [Fred Newman](#), founder of [International Workers Party](#)

## Zionists[\[edit\]](#)

- [David Werner Amram](#) (1866 – 1939), director of Federation of American Zionists
- [Samuel S. Bloom](#) (1860 - 1941)
- [Kenneth Bob](#)
- [David Brog](#), Executive Director of [Christians United For Israel](#)
- [Jacques Torczyner](#) (1914 - 2013)
- [Stephen Samuel Wise](#) (1874 – 1949)
- [Baruch Zuckerman](#) (1887 – 1970)

## See also[\[edit\]](#)

- [Jewish left](#)

## Footnotes[\[edit\]](#)

- Jump up** Waxman, Sharon; Richard Siklos (2006-12-19). "[New Dispute Over Firing of Publisher](#)". The New York Times. Retrieved 2006-12-18.
- Jump up** "other Jewish authors who may be of interest... Bettina Aptheker"
- Jump up** <http://www.socialism.com/Clarasmemorial.htm><sup>[*dead link*]</sup>
- Jump up** Johnson, David K. (2002). "Franklin E. Kameny (1925-)". In [Bullough, Vern L.](#). *Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context*. New York: The Haworth Press. pp. 209–218. [ISBN 978-1-56023-193-6](#).
- Jump up** Ross, Ross (2007-04-08). "[Rebecca Walker bringing message to Expo](#)". Pensacola News Journal. Retrieved 2007-04-08.
- Jump up** Weinstein Bilson, Mara. "[The President of the National Rifle Association is Jewish?](#)". *Moment Magazine*. Archived from [the original](#) on December 6, 2006. Retrieved 2006-12-04.<sup>[*dead link*]</sup>
- Jump up** R. Reiner — <sup>[1]</sup> "Reiner, however, said Gibson also must do some "major soul-searching." "It's not a matter of just apologizing for some words you've said," said Reiner, who is Jewish. "It's to really understand why it is you're anti-Semitic and where those feelings came from.""

### Categories:

- [Jewish society](#)

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